List of Claims:

1-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Not entered) A fibrous nonwoven mat having a basis weight of about 2.3 to about 2.6 lbs/100 sq. ft., high flame resistance and unexpected excellent tensile strength, flex and recovery properties after scoring and folding comprising a blend of fibers suitable for use as the scored and folded vertical webs spanning between an exposed mat and a backer mat in a compressible ceiling tile as described in published U. S. Patent Application No. 20020020142 filed April 23,2001, having the ability to, after being scored, folded, and compressed, to spring back to the original shape and orientation, comprising about 88 to about 92 weight percent chopped glass fibers having a diameter in the range of about 13 to about 17.5 microns and a length in the range of about 0.7 to about 1.1 inches and about 8 to about 12 percent man-made polymer fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, nylon, PBT, polyacrynitrile, and polybenzinidizole in a nonwoven web, the fibers in the web being bound together by a binder that is at least partially cured and consists essentially of, before drying and curing, a homopolymer or a copolymer of polyacrylic acid and a polyol, with or without a polycarboxy polymer, the binder being present in the mat in an amount of about 25 +/- 5 wt. percent of the mat, the mat having a Taber Stiffness of at least about 50 gram centimeters and passing the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Method #701 Flammability Test.

52. (Original) The mat according to claim 51, wherein the average molecular weight of the
polyacrylic acid polymer is about 3,000 or less.

53. (Original) The mat according to claim 51, wherein the polyol is triethanolamine.

54. (Original) The mat according to claim 52, wherein the polyol is triethanolamine.

55. (Original) The mat of claim 51 wherein the man-made polymer fibers are polyester fibers.

56. (Original) The mat of claim 52 wherein the man-made polymer fibers are polyester fibers.

57. (Original) The mat of claim 53 wherein the man-made polymer fibers are polyester fibers.

58. (Original) The mat of claim 54 wherein the man-made polymer fibers are polyester fibers.

59. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 51 wherein the binder content is in the range of about 25 to about 28 wt. percent.

60. (Original) The mat of claim 59 wherein the polymer fibers are polyester fibers and the glass fibers have an average fiber diameter in the range 16 +/- 1 micron.

61. (Not entered) The mat of claim 51 wherein the polymer fibers are polyester fibers about 1.5 denier and are about 0.25 +/- .07 inch long.

62. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 52 wherein the polymer fibers are polyester fibers about 1.5 denier and are about 0.25 +/- .07 inch long.

63. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 54 wherein the wherein the polymer fibers are polyester fibers about 1.5 denier and are about 0.25 +/- .07 inch long.

64. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 63 wherein the glass fibers have an average fiber diameter in the range 16 +/- 1 micron and the binder content is in the range of about 25 to about 28 wt. percent.

65-70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 51 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

72. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 52 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

73. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 53 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

74. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 54 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

75. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 55 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

76. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 56 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

77. (Original) The mat of claim 57 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

78. (Original) The mat of claim 58 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

79. (Original) The mat of claim 59 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

80. (Original) The mat of claim 60 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

81. (Original) The mat of claim 61 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

82. (Currently amended) The mat of claim 99 wherein the fiber content of the mat is about 90 wt. percent of glass fibers and about 10 wt. percent of polyester fibers, the binder content of the mat is about 25 wt. percent, the basis wt. of the mat is about 2.4 lbs./100 sq. ft. and the thickness of the mat is about 42 +/- 3 mils ~~62 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent~~.

83. (Currently amended) The mat of claim 99 wherein the fiber content of the mat is about 88 wt. percent of glass fibers and about 12 wt. percent of polyester fibers, the binder content of the mat is about 25 wt. percent, the basis wt. of the mat is about 2.6 lbs./100 sq. ft. and the thickness of the mat is about 42 +/- 5 mils ~~63 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent~~.

84. (Currently amended) The mat of claim 99 wherein the fiber content of the mat is about 92 wt. percent of glass fibers and about 8 wt. percent of polyester fibers, the binder content of the mat is about 28 wt. percent, the basis wt. of the mat is about 2.3 lbs./100 sq. ft. and the thickness of the mat is about 40 +/- 5 mils ~~64 wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent~~.

85-90. (Cancelled)

91. (Not entered) A nonwoven mat having a basis weight in the range of about 2 to about 2.6 lbs./100 sq. ft., a high flame resistance and unexpected tensile strength, flex and recovery properties after scoring and folding and suitable for use as the scored and folded vertical webs spanning between an exposed mat and a backer mat in a compressible ceiling tile as disclosed in published U. S. Patent Application No. 20020020142 filed April 23,2001, including the ability to, after being scored, folded, and compressed, to spring back to the original shape and orientation, comprised of a blend of fibers comprised of about 84 to about 92 wt. percent of chopped glass fibers having an

average fiber diameter in the range of about 13 to about 17.5 microns and lengths within the range of about 0.7 and about 1.1 ~~25~~ inches and about 8 to about 16 wt. percent of polyester fibers having a length of about 0.25 +/- 0.07 inch, the fibers being bound together with about 20 to about 30 wt. percent, based on the dry weight of the mat, of a cured resin consisting essentially of a resin derived from an aqueous homopolymer or copolymer of polyacrylic acid and a polyol, with or without a polycarboxy polymer, the mat having a Taber Stiffness of at least about 50 gram centimeters and passing the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Method #701 Flammability Test.

92. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 91 wherein the average molecular weight of the polyacrylic acid polymer is about 3000 or less wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent.

93. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 91 wherein the polyol is triethanolamine, the glass fibers have a diameter of about 16 +/- 1.5 microns and the mat has an air permeability in the range of about 500 – 700 CFM/sq. ft.

94. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 92 wherein the polyol is triethanolamine, the glass fibers have a diameter of about 16 +/- 1.5 microns and the mat has an air permeability in the range of about 500 – 700 CFM/sq. ft.

95 - 98. (Cancelled)

99. (Currently amended) A nonwoven mat having high flame resistance and unexpected tensile strength, flex and recovery properties after scoring and folding and suitable for use as the scored and folded vertical webs spanning between an exposed mat and a backer mat in a compressible ceiling tile as disclosed in published U. S. Patent Application No. 20020020142 filed April 23,2001, including the ability to, after being scored, folded, and compressed, to spring back to the original shape and orientation, comprised of a blend of fibers comprised of about 88 to about 92 wt. percent of chopped glass fibers having an average fiber diameter in the range of about 16 +/- 1 microns and a length of about 1 inch and about 8 to about 12 wt. percent of 1.5 denier polyester fibers having a length of about 0.25 +/-0.07 inch, the fibers being bound together with about 25 to about 28 wt. percent, based on the dry weight of the mat, of a cured resin

derived from an aqueous homopolymer or copolymer consisting essentially of polyacrylic acid and a polyol, with or without a polycarboxy polymer the average molecular weight of the polyacrylic acid polymer is about 3,000 or less, wherein the binder is cured sufficiently that the wet tensile strength divided by the dry tensile strength times 100 equals at least about 35 percent, the mat passing the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Method #701 Flammability Test, the mat having a Taber Stiffness of at least about 50 gram centimeters and the mat having an air permeability in the range of about 500 – 700 CFM/sq. ft., the nonwoven mat having a basis weight in the range of about 2.3 to about 2.6 lbs/100 sq. ft and a thickness in the range of about 35 to about 48 mils.